

Appendix L



Refuge staff installing a temporary scarecrow

Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Public Involvement Summary
- Land Conservation Partners
- Rachel Carson NWR CCP Planning Team

Public Involvement Summary

Effective conservation usually begins with effective community involvement. To ensure that our future management of the refuge considers the issues, concerns, and opportunities expressed by the public, we used a variety of public involvement techniques in our planning process.

- We kept updated mailing lists of refuge neighbors, friends, professional contacts and others to share information and updates about this CCP.
- In May and June 1998, we invited visitors to discuss current refuge operations and the planning process at a series of morning coffees. We sent four press releases about the CCP to 15 newspapers in Maine and New Hampshire, and ran notices on local public access cable stations. The York County Coast Star, southern Maine's primary local newspaper, raised public awareness by publishing a long article about our refuge planning. We designed and distributed leaflets about the morning coffees and our upcoming Issues Workbook.
- In summer 1999, we distributed nearly 500 12-page Issues Workbooks, the backbone of this plan's important public participation component. Those workbooks provided background information about the planning project and a means for the public to share its concerns and thoughts about important refuge issues. A refuge volunteer tallied the responses in the more than 100 workbooks returned. In July 1999, we sent a summary of those responses to our CCP mailing list, and also distributed it from the refuge office.
- Several information-gathering workshops in 1999 included a gathering of the extended planning team in March, a meeting on public use and community goals in June, and a meeting on biological resources, also in June. Our facilitated, all-day Alternatives Workshop gathered 15 stakeholder representatives in August. Refuge staff and 10 observers, including congressional representatives and Service administrators, assisted those participants with setting goals in the topical areas of wildlife, community, public use, and water quality. We mailed a complete summary of the comments and the materials the workshop generated to participants and observers soon after.
- Refuge planning team members met several times each month to synthesize information and prepare the CCP, and briefed our Regional Office in September 1999.
- As part of the CCP process we have been working with our Maine Field Office to evaluate potential impacts of our proposed management to threatened or endangered species. An intra-service Section 7 biological evaluation form was completed in October 2006 and is included as appendix K of this final CCP.
- On August 17, 2006 we released the draft CCP/EA for 30 days of public review and comment. This provided another opportunity for our stakeholders to discuss issues and offer solutions. The comment period ended September 18, 2006. A summary of the public comments we received can be found in appendix M of this final CCP. We notified the public of the availability of the draft CCP/EA via a newsletter, our website, and several press releases. We also advertised for and held two public meetings: on August 29, 2006, from 5-8pm at the University of New England in Biddeford, ME and on September 7, 2006, from 5-8pm, at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, ME.

- We analyzed all of the comments on the draft CCP/EA we received during its 30 day public review and applied them when we revised it into this final CCP. Appendix M summarizes those public comments and our responses to them.

The refuge manager and staff will use this plan to guide their decisions on managing the refuge during the next 15 years. Each year, we will evaluate our accomplishments on the refuge in accordance with the preferred action described in this final CCP. We may intensify refuge monitoring without additional NEPA compliance. However, any results of our future monitoring that predict a new, significant impact would require our analysis and public involvement in an additional environmental assessment.

This plan also conveys our refuge management direction to other agencies, groups, and individuals. We must formally revise it every 15 years, or sooner, if the Secretary of the Interior determines that conditions affecting the refuge have changed significantly. We will monitor the results of our actions under this plan to ensure that our decisions accomplish the strategies and directions it conveys, and will use the data we collect in routine inspections or program evaluations to continually update and adjust our management activities.

Land Conservation Partners

Conserving wildlife habitat in southern coastal Maine requires partnerships. Some of our land conservation partners and refuge conservation stakeholders appear below.

■ Biddeford Pool Improvement Association

Mission.—Hold property and easements for conservation and preservation for the benefit of the general public.

■ Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT)

CELT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of open spaces for the benefit of its citizens.

■ The Conservation Fund

The fund forges partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage: America's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open space. It pioneers a unique brand of conservation driven by effectiveness, efficiency, and environmental and economic balance.

■ Friends of Rachel Carson NWR

Mission.—Support refuge acquisition funding; assist in the pursuit of acquisitions; increase public awareness of the needs and benefits of the refuge; provide monitoring of refuge divisions; comment on refuge activities; identify other, similar areas that warrant the same type of protection; assist in refuge projects as they arise; identify means and locations for education and the visitor center.

■ Great Works Regional Land Trust

Mission.—Protect wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural, forestry, recreational, and historic properties.

■ Kennebunk Land Trust

Mission.—Acquire, receive, and administer property, easements, and funds to establish protected or unmanaged natural preserves and other appropriate areas for the promotion and advancement of conservation and education.

■ Kennebunkport Conservation Trust

Mission.—Acquire undeveloped lands in our community so they might remain in their natural state forever and provide retreats in an increasingly urbanized society.

■ Kittery Land Trust

Mission.—Preserve land through voluntary cooperation with landowners, educate the public on land preservation and conservation, and facilitate family estate planning through the use of land trust practices and options.

■ Laudholm Trust

Mission.—Provide resources and enable the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve to serve as a research and education site and a passive recreational preserve by raising and allocating funds; aid in protecting the preserve's estuaries and other estuarine areas to the extent resources permit.

■ Maine Audubon Society

Mission.—Dedicated to the protection, conservation, and enhancement of Maine's ecosystems through the promotion of individual understanding and actions.

■ Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Mission.—Protect the shoreline and islands that define the character of Maine and enhance the well-being of its communities.

■ Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative (MtA2C)

MtA2C brings together 10 national, regional and local conservation partners to conserve a mosaic of critical, threatened lands, waterways and working landscapes encompassing a six-town area stretching from the Tatnic Hills in Wells to Gerrish Island in Kittery Point.

■ National Park Service Rivers and Trails

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a community resource of the National Park Service. Rivers & Trails staff work with community groups and local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

■ The Nature Conservancy

Mission.—Preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life in Maine and on Earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive.

■ Saco Bay Partners

A regional coalition of organizations dedicated to the conservation of land, water and other natural resources in the Saco Bay watershed.

■ Saco Land Trust

Mission.—Preserve scenic, historic, recreational and environmental resources in the Upper Sandy River watershed by acquiring interests in land; protect open space, scenic area water quality, wildlife, and plant habitat for the public good.

■ Saco Valley Land Trust

Preserve scenic, historic, recreational and environmental resources in the Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach area by acquiring interests in land; protecting open space, scenic areas and water quality, wildlife, and plant habitat for the public good.

■ Scarborough Land Conservation Trust

Its mission continues to be the acquisition, preservation, and management of unique land in Scarborough for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

■ State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Mission.—Protect and enhance the state's inland fisheries and wildlife; provide for the wise use of those resources.

■ The Trust for Public Land

Mission.—Conserve land for people to improve the quality of life in our communities and protect our natural and historic resources for future generations.

■ Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mission.—Improve the ecological health of coastal habitats and resources through a unique, integrated program of research, education, and resource management.

■ York Land Trust, Inc.

Mission.—Promote the protection of natural resources for the benefit of the general public—and for future generations.

■ York Rivers Association

The York Rivers Association is a group of local citizens committed to raising awareness of the character of the York River region among area residents and landowners. Their mission is to protect and enhance the natural, scenic, and historic qualities of the York River; and instill a sense of stewardship and ownership among all.

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